THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Fantastic
FOU
52
JULY
12¢
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
Introducing:
THE SENSATIONAL
BLACK PANTHER!

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THE FABULOUS F.F. ARE TRAPPED IN THE INCREDIBLE REALM OF
"THE BLACK PANTHER!"
ALSO FEATURING: The WAY-OUT and WONDERFUL WYATT WINGFOOT!
IT HAD TO BE TOLD... AS ONLY MIGHTY MARVEL COULD TELL IT!
SCRIPT BY: SMILIN' STAN LEE
ART BY: JOLLY JACKIE KIRBY
INKING BY: GENTLEMAN JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING BY: HAMMY SAMMY ROSEN
VOTED THE GREATEST TALE OF THE MONTH! (BY STAN AND JACK!)

WHEN YOU OR I GO FOR A SPIN, PUSSYCAT, WE HOP INTO THE OL' HOT ROD AND TAKE OFF! BUT, YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT THE FF TO BE AS CONVENTIONAL AS THAT, NOW, WOULD YOU?
HEY, STRETCH... WHEN DID YOU HAVE TIME TO DREAM UP A JAZZY FLYIN' FASTBACK LIKE THIS BABY?
I DIDN'T, BEN!
IT WAS AN UNEXPECTED GIFT... SENT TO ME BY AN AFRICAN CHIEFTAIN, CALLED... THE BLACK PANTHER!
IF ONLY JOHNNY WERE HOME FROM COLLEGE! HE'D BE IN SEVENTH HEAVEN BY NOW!
NEVER HEARD OF 'IM! BUT HOW DOES SOME REFUGEE FROM A TARZAN MOVIE LAY HIS HANDS ON THIS KINDA GIZMO?
'N WHY WOULD HE GIVE IT TO YOU?
HEY, EGGHEAD... WHAT HAPPENED? DIDJA LOSE CONTROL?
NO, BEN! RELAX... I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT THIS SHIP WILL DO! ITS MANEUVERABILITY IS AMAZING!
IT SEEMS TO BE POWERED BY SOME SORT OF MAGNETIC WAVES...
AND, THESE PUSH-BUTTON CONTROLS MAKE HANDLING IT AS EASY AS DIALING A PHONE!
I WONDER HOW THE BLACK PANTHER... WHOEVER HE IS... GOT POSSESSION OF SUCH A SHIP?
BEN! IS ANYTHING WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN SO QUIET.. AND, YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL!
WITH A FACE LIKE MINE, HOW CAN YA TELL?
BENJAMIN J. GRIMM! I'M SURPRISED AT YOU! YOU.. AN EX-AIR FORCE PILOT... AND THE STRONGEST MAN I KNOW... I THINK YOU'RE GETTING AIR-SICK!
IF WISHIN' YA COULD LAY DOWN 'N DIE IS A SYMPTOM --YER RIGHT, SUSIE!
I THINK BEN'S PUTTING YOU ON, HONEY!
BUT, I'LL HEAD FOR THE BAXTER BUILDING NOW, ANYWAY! THE BLACK PANTHER'S EMISSARY IS WAITING FOR US ON THE LANDING-ROOF..!
I'M ANXIOUS TO HAVE HIM TELL ME MORE ABOUT OUR MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTOR!
2.

THUS, A FEW SECONDS LATER...
THE SKY-CRAFT IS YOURS TO KEEP, MR. RICHARDS, IF YOU ACCEPT MY CHIEFTAIN'S INVITATION!
HE WISHES THE FAMOUS FANTASTIC FOUR TO BE HIS GUESTS IN THE KINGDOM OF WAKANDA!
THERE, HE SHALL ARRANGE THE GREATEST HUNT OF ALL TIME...IN HONOR OF YOUR VISIT!
WELL, WE COULD USE A VACATION!
BEN! DID YOU HEAR THAT? WE'RE GOING TO... OH, DEAR! YOU WEREN'T FOOLING!
YOU REALLY WERE AIR-SICK!
YOU'RE TELLIN' ME!
VERY WELL! AS SOON AS MY WIFE GIVES THE THING SOME DRAMAMINE FOR HIS AIR-SICKNESS, WE'LL BE DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT YOUR OFFER!
EXCELLENT, SIR!
I SHALL COMMUNICATE THESE GLAD TIDINGS TO THE BLACK PANTHER AT ONCE!
HE TOOK A METAL DEVICE FROM INSIDE HIS TOGA! BUT, IT'S SO SMALL...!
CAN HE ACTUALLY TRANSMIT A MESSAGE HALF-WAY 'ROUND THE GLOBE... WITH THAT?
YOU SEEM SURPRISED, SIR! ACTUALLY, THIS APPARATUS OPERATES BY C.C.W. ...COSMIC CHANNEL WAVES WHICH CAN BLANKET ALL OF EARTH!
AND NOW, BY YOUR LEAVE... AT THE MERE PRESS OF A BUTTON...
...I SHALL CONTACT MY CHIEFTAIN... IN WAKANDA!
INSTANTANEOUSLY, A POWERFUL SOUND BEAM REACHES A PREDESIGNATED AREA DEEP IN THE HEART OF EQUATORIAL AFRICA...
...AN AREA WHEREIN LIES BURIED A MYSTERY... A MYSTERY KNOWN ONLY TO THOSE WHO KNOW OF THE WAKANDAS.. AND WHO SPEAK THE NAME OF THE BLACK PANTHER IN HUSHED, FEARFUL WHISPERS..!
5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MORE MARVEL MASTERPIECES...
HERE COMES...
DAREDEVIL
17 JUNE
12¢
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THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
NONE ARE SO BLIND..!
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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HERE'S SPIDEY AT HIS FIGHTING BEST!
"JUST A GUY NAMED JOE!"
THRILLS!
SPILLS!
CHILLS!
'NUFF SAID!
MARVEL'S MIGHTIEST MASTERPIECES!
MARVEL TALES
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SPIDEY! FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE LIZARD!
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THOR
MIGHTY THOR CAPTURED BY THE EXECUTIONER!
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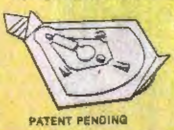

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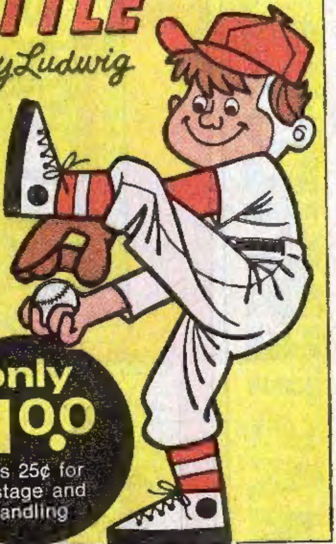

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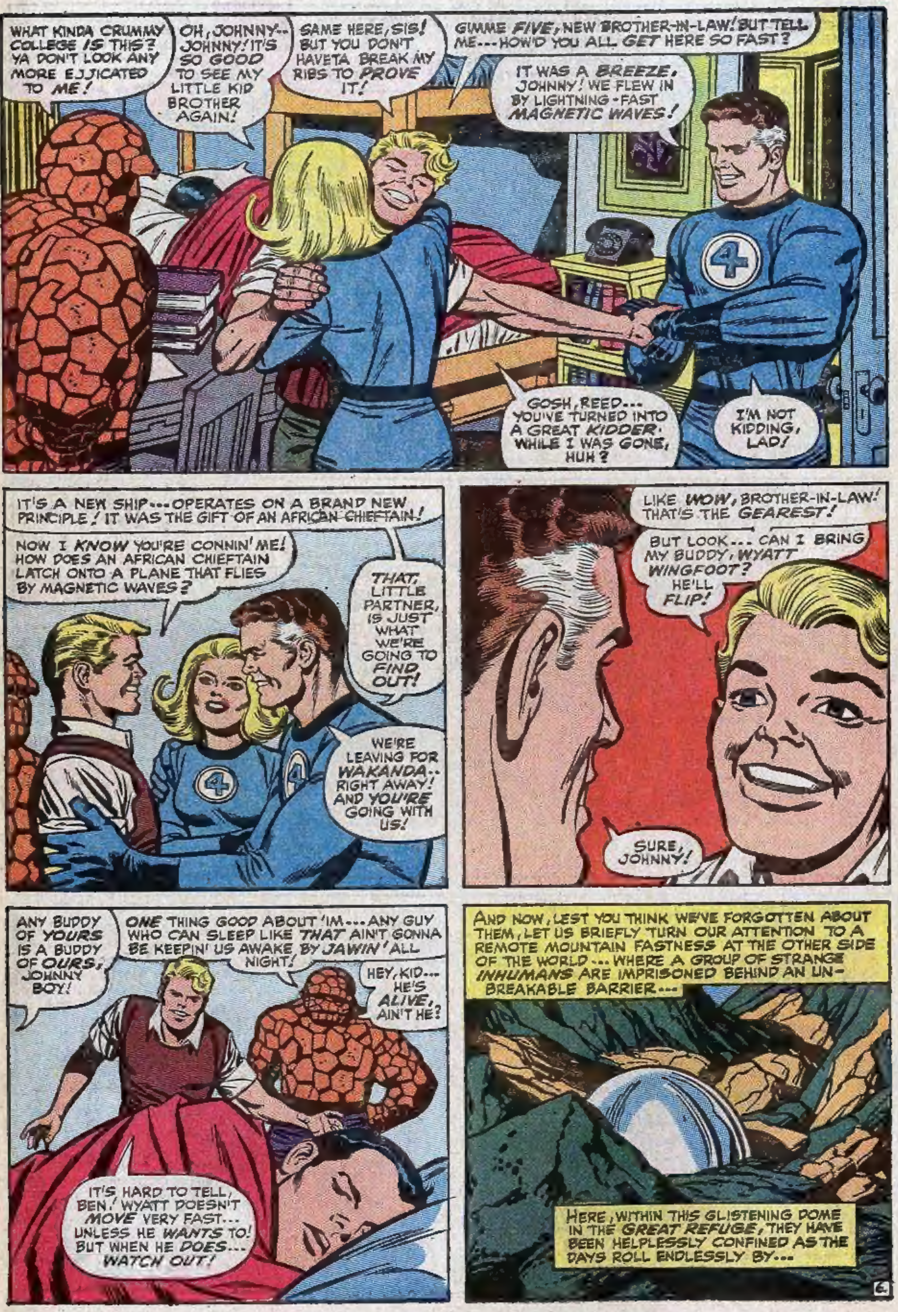
ALL DEVICES ARE FULLY OPERATIONAL!
AND SO I REMOVE MY STALKING COSTUME FROM ITS CAREFULLY CONCEALED COMPARTMENT!
NOW, LET THE FANTASTIC FOUR COME!
THE BLACK PANTHER SHALL GREET THEM... AS THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN GREETED BEFORE!
WHILE, IN A QUIET ROOM IN NORTHFIELD DORMITORY, ON THE CAMPUS OF METRO COLLEGE, WE FIND...
I WONDER IF I PASSED TODAY'S EXAM?
I SURE DON'T WANT REED, SUE, AND BEN TO BE ASHAMED OF ME!
NOTHING BOTHERS OL' WYATT! I'M SURPRISED HE EVEN MANAGED TO STAY AWAKE DURING THE TEST!
I CAN'T WAIT TILL MORNING...TO HEAD BACK HOME FOR VACATION!
IT'S HARD...HARDER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE...TO CONCENTRATE ON MY COURSES... WHEN I CAN'T GET CRYSTAL OUT OF MY MIND!
BUT, I'VE GOT TO KEEP TRYING! UNTIL REED CAN FIND SOME WAY TO BREAK THE BARRIER THAT HOLDS HER PRISONER,* THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!
NOTHING BUT HOPE---AND DREAM...AND PRAY!
I'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT...AND I WILL! IF ONLY THE EVENINGS WEREN'T SO LONG..!
* IF YOU MISSED F.F. #48, DON'T TELL US! YOU KNOW HOW UPSET WE GET! ... SHAKY STAN.
HEY!! HOLY HANNAH!! WHAT THE...?!!
SURPRISE!
HIYA, JOE COLLEGE! WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD, LITTLE ITTY BITTY BUDDY?
I'LL ITTY BITTY BUDDY YOU, YOU BLUE-EYED BIRDBRAIN!!
I KNOWED YA'D BE AS GOOD-NATURED AS EVER, JUNIOR!
LEGGO, BEFORE I GIVE YOU A HOT-FOOT BETWEEN WHERE YOUR EARS OUGHTTA BE!
5


WHAT KINDA CRUMMY COLLEGE IS THIS? YA DON'T LOOK ANY MORE EJJICATED TO ME!
OH, JOHNNY-- JOHNNY! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE MY LITTLE KID BROTHER AGAIN!
SAME HERE, SIS! BUT YOU DON'T HAVETA BREAK MY RIBS TO PROVE IT!
GIMME FIVE, NEW BROTHER-IN-LAW! BUT TELL ME--- HOW'D YOU ALL GET HERE SO FAST?
IT WAS A BREEZE, JOHNNY! WE FLEW IN BY LIGHTNING-FAST MAGNETIC WAVES!
GOSH, REED--- YOU'VE TURNED INTO A GREAT KIDDER WHILE I WAS GONE, HUH?
I'M NOT KIDDING, LAD!
IT'S A NEW SHIP --- OPERATES ON A BRAND NEW PRINCIPLE! IT WAS THE GIFT OF AN AFRICAN CHIEFTAIN!
NOW I KNOW YOU'RE CONNIN' ME! HOW DOES AN AFRICAN CHIEFTAIN LATCH ONTO A PLANE THAT FLIES BY MAGNETIC WAVES?
THAT, LITTLE PARTNER, IS JUST WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!
WE'RE LEAVING FOR WAKANDA.. RIGHT AWAY! AND YOU'RE GOING WITH US!
LIKE WOW, BROTHER-IN-LAW! THAT'S THE GEAREST!
BUT LOOK ... CAN I BRING MY BUDDY, WYATT WINGFOOT? HE'LL FLIP!
SURE, JOHNNY!
ANY BUDDY OF YOURS IS A BUDDY OF OURS, JOHNNY BOY!
ONE THING GOOD ABOUT 'IM --- ANY GUY WHO CAN SLEEP LIKE THAT AIN'T GONNA BE KEEPIN' US AWAKE BY JAWIN' ALL NIGHT!
HEY, KID... HE'S ALIVE, AIN'T HE?
IT'S HARD TO TELL, BEN! WYATT DOESN'T MOVE VERY FAST... UNLESS HE WANTS TO! BUT WHEN HE DOES... WATCH OUT!
AND NOW, LEST YOU THINK WE'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM, LET US BRIEFLY TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A REMOTE MOUNTAIN FASTNESS AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD ... WHERE A GROUP OF STRANGE INHUMANS ARE IMPRISONED BEHIND AN UN-BREAKABLE BARRIER---
HERE, WITHIN THIS GLISTENING DOME IN THE GREAT REFUGE, THEY HAVE BEEN HELPLESSLY CONFINED AS THE DAYS ROLL ENDLESSLY BY---
6.

BUT THOUGH THEIR PLIGHT SEEMS TRULY HOPELESS THEY REFUSE TO DESPAIR...
YOU WASTE YOUR TIME, KARNAK! YOUR POWER CANNOT SHATTER A NEGATIVE ZONE!
IT COULD, GORGON... IF I COULD FIND THE ONE WEAK SPOT! PERHAPS... MORE PRACTICE!
BUT YOU'VE BEEN SHATTERING THOSE DIAMOND BLOCKS FOR MONTHS!
I MUST KEEP MY HAND IN! WE MUST NEVER STOP TRYING!
EVERYTHING HAS ONE WEAK SPOT.. EVERYTHING!! EVEN THIS SEEMINGLY INDESTRUCTIBLE DIAMOND BLOCK!
BUT, A NEGATIVE ZONE IS DIFFERENT! IT CAN REPEL ANY POSITIVE MATTER!
NO! I'LL FIND A WAY! NOTHING CAN RESIST THE POWER OF KARNAK!
NOTHING!!
CLAKK!
IF I CAN SHATTER THE HARDEST SUBSTANCE KNOWN ON EARTH... WHY CAN'T I FREE US FROM THE PRISON OF THIS ACCURSED NEGATIVE ZONE??! WHY? WHY? WHY?
OH KARNAK... IF ONLY YOU COULD! IF ONLY WE COULD ONE DAY REJOIN THE HUMAN RACE..!
STAND BACK! I'LL TRY AGAIN...!
IF I COULD SEE JOHNNY STORM ONCE MORE... FEEL HIS ARMS AROUND ME AGAIN... JUST ONCE MORE..
I'VE TOLD YOU, CRYSTAL... YOU MUST FORGET HIM. YOU MUSTN'T TORTURE YOURSELF SO!
ARRRHHHH!
NO MORE, KARNAK... NO MORE! YOU'LL BREAK YOUR HAND! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY!!
THEN FROM A SECURELY-LOCKED CELL, HIGH ABOVE, THE MAD CACKLING LAUGHTER OF MAXIMUS... THE POWER-CRAZED BROTHER OF BLACK BOLT.. TAUNTS THE DESPERATE LITTLE BAND WHOM WE KNOW AS... THE INHUMANS!
YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE! NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!
I AM THE RIGHTFUL KING... NOT BLACK BOLT!!
AND MY SUBJECTS MUST REMAIN WITH ME... FOREVER!!

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PLAY 1966 BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES

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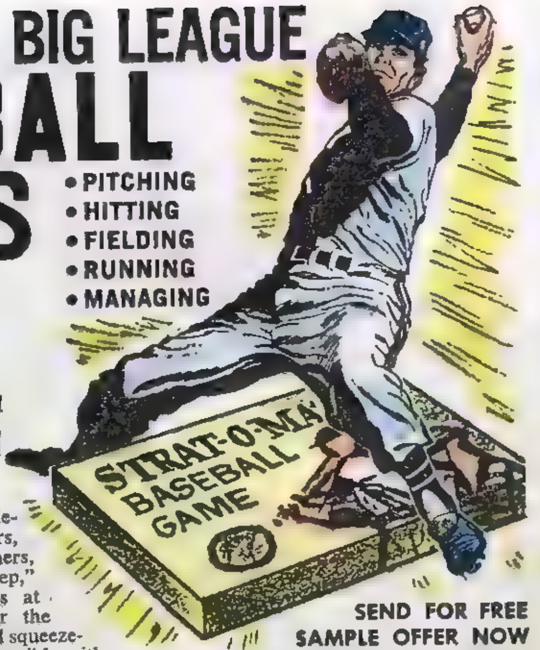

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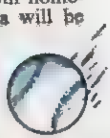

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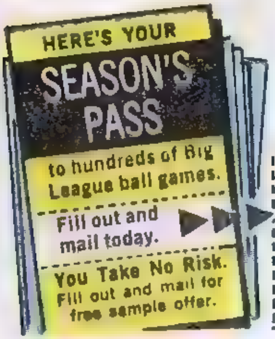

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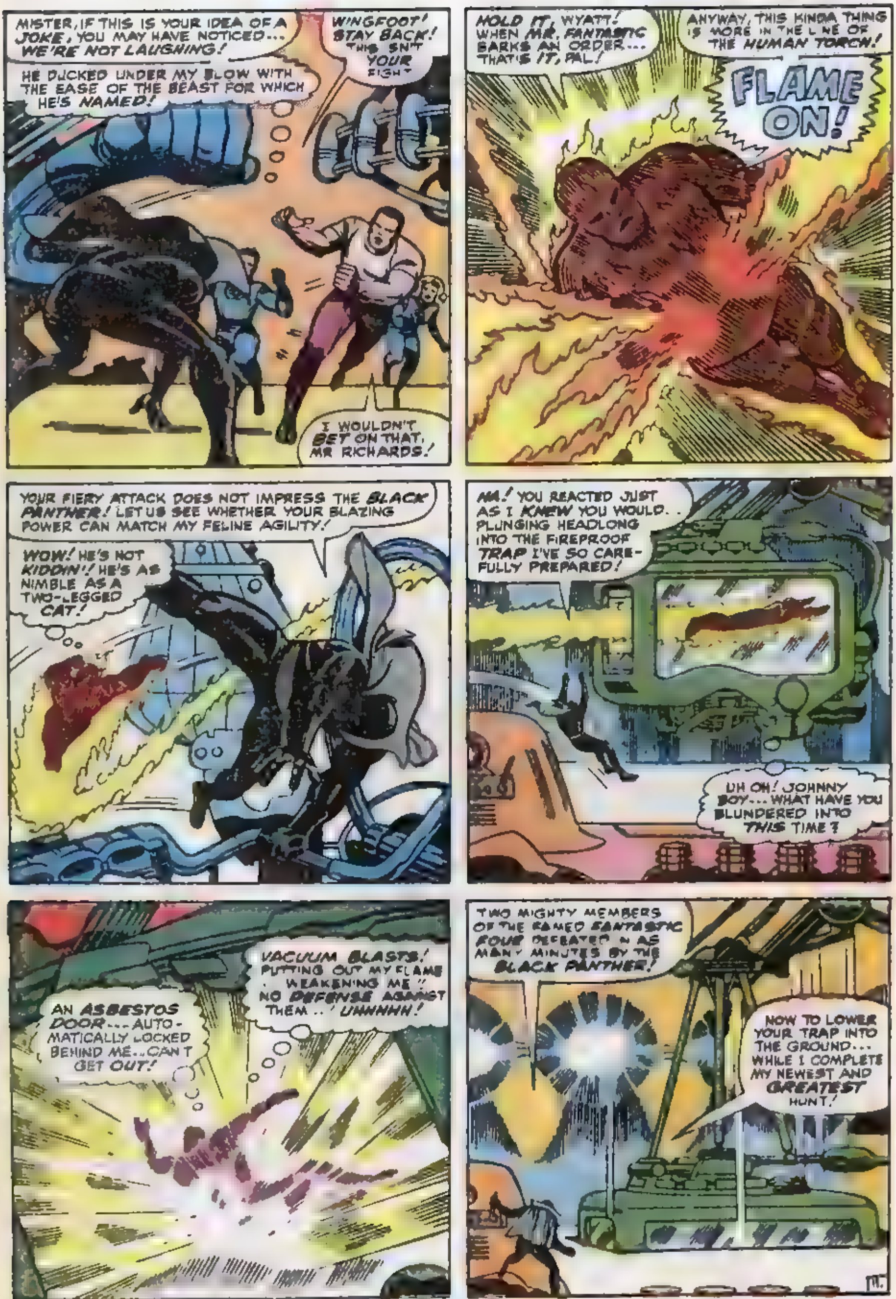
SUDDENLY... THERE'S A BREAK IN THE DENSE FOLIAGE BELOW ...AND WITH UNERRING PRECISION, THE GRIM-LIPPED NATIVE PILOT GUIDES HIS SILENT SHIP INTO... A WORLD OF SHEER WONDERMENT..!
IT'S A STRANGE NEW LAND... HIDDEN FROM ABOVE BY A CONCEALING COVER OF GIANT TREES.
IT'S TRULY A JUNGLE---BUT LIKE NOTHING EVER SPAWNED BY NATURE! IT'S A MAN-MADE JUNGLE!
INDEED, YOU ARE CORRECT! THE ENTIRE TOPOGRAPHY AND FLORA ARE ELECTRONICALLY-CONTROLLED MECHANICAL APPARATUS! THE VERY BRANCHES ABOUT US ARE COMPOSED OF DELICATELY-CONSTRUCTED WIRES..
WHILE THE FLOWERS WHICH ABOUND HERE ARE HIGHLY COMPLEX BUTTONS AND DIALS! EVEN THE BOULDERS CAN BE HEARD TO HUM WITH THE STEADY PULSE OF COMPUTER DYNAMOS!
THEN, NO SOONER DOES THE AMAZING SHIP COME TO A VIBRATIONLESS HALT, THAN...
OUR GUIDE!! HE'S GONE! HE VANISHED BEHIND A NETWORK OF TUBES AND COILS!
STAY TOGETHER...ALL OF YOU! WHOEVER CREATED THIS ELECTRONIC NIGHTMARE HAS KEPT IT A SECRET FOR SOME DEADLY REASON!
PHOOEY! IT'LL TAKE MORE'N A MESS'A CHROME-PLATED NUTS 'N BOLTS TO SCARE ME!
9

HEY, LOOK! IT'S LAUGHIN' BOY! THAT'S WHERE HE DISAPPEARED TO! HE'S MAKIN' A GETAWAY DOWN THAT BLAMED ELEVATOR!
LUMBERING FOOL! YOU'LL NEVER REACH ME IN TIME!
I WON'T, HUH?
OKAY, SO YA MANAGED TO GIT DOWN TO YER RAT HOLE! I'LL RIP THE BLAMED PLATFORM RIGHT OUTTA THE GROUND, 'N THEN ---
AGGHHH-HHHH!
BEN!
IT WUZ A TRAP!... SOME KINDA ELECTRIC SHOCK... WAITIN' FER WHOEVER TOUCHED THAT METAL!
EASY, BIG FELLA.. EASY! LEAN ON ME, BEN... I'LL HELP YOU!
BUT... WHAT'D IT DO TO ME?? I--I'M AS WEAK AS A BLAMED YANCY STREETER--!
YOU WASTE YOUR TIME, JOHNNY STORM! NOTHING CAN HELP ANY OF YOU NOW!
THOSE ELECTRIC VOLTS HAVE CAUSED A CHAIN REACTION IN HIS BLOOD CELLS WHICH WILL WEAKEN HIM FOR FIVE MINUTES!
AND THAT IS ALL THE TIME THE BLACK PANTHER SHALL NEED!
'TWAS I WHO INVITED YOU FOR THE HUNT!
BUT, I NEGLECTED TO TELL YOU ONE THING---
IT IS YOU WHO SHALL BE HUNTED!
10


MISTER, IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED... WE'RE NOT LAUGHING!
WINGFOOT! STAY BACK! THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT
HE DUCKED UNDER MY BLOW WITH THE EASE OF THE BEAST FOR WHICH HE'S NAMED!
I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT, MR RICHARDS!
HOLD IT, WYATT! WHEN MR. FANTASTIC BARKS AN ORDER... THAT'S IT, PAL!
ANYWAY, THIS KINDA THING IS MORE IN THE LINE OF THE HUMAN TORCH!
FLAME ON!
YOUR FIERY ATTACK DOES NOT IMPRESS THE BLACK PANTHER! LET US SEE WHETHER YOUR BLAZING POWER CAN MATCH MY FELINE AGILITY!
WOW! HE'S NOT KIDDIN'! HE'S AS NIMBLE AS A TWO-LEGGED CAT!
HA! YOU REACTED JUST AS I KNEW YOU WOULD.. PLUNGING HEADLONG INTO THE FIREPROOF TRAP I'VE SO CAREFULLY PREPARED!
UH OH! JOHNNY BOY... WHAT HAVE YOU BLUNDERED INTO THIS TIME?
VACUUM BLASTS! PUTTING OUT MY FLAME.. WEAKENING ME.. NO DEFENSE AGAINST THEM.. UHHHHH!
AN ASBESTOS DOOR... AUTOMATICALLY LOCKED BEHIND ME.. CAN'T GET OUT!
TWO MIGHTY MEMBERS OF THE FAMED FANTASTIC FOUR DEFEATED IN AS MANY MINUTES BY THE BLACK PANTHER!
NOW TO LOWER YOUR TRAP INTO THE GROUND... WHILE I COMPLETE MY NEWEST AND GREATEST HUNT!
11.

AHH.. MY PREY LEARNS QUICKLY! THEY HAVE ELECTED TO STOP AND PLAN BEFORE PLUNGING WITLESSLY INTO ANOTHER FOOLHARDY ATTACK!
THAT IS GOOD! A VICTORY TOO EASILY WON IS TOO SOON FORGOTTEN!
AND, SEPARATED FROM THEIR ASTOUNDING ANTAGONIST BY A VAST, MIND-STAGGERING COMPLEX OF UNFATHOMABLE ELECTRONIC MARVELS, WE FIND...
HE SAID I'D BE WEAK FOR FIVE MINUTES, BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE'A MINUTES AND I FEEL LIKE MY OL' BEAUTIFUL SELF AGAIN!
EVEN THE BLACK PANTHER DIDN'T REALIZE HOW TRULY STRONG YOU ARE, BEN!
BUT, DON'T LAUNCH ANY NEW ATTACKS, OLD FRIEND, UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD!
WHAT ABOUT JOHNNY? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
BENEATH OUR FEET.. THE HUM OF POWERFUL GENERATORS .. GIVING OFF LIMITLESS ENERGY!
BEN.. WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
DON'T DO IT, MR. GRIMM! PUT THAT IRON DEVICE DOWN! PUT IT DOWN!
RELAX, STRETCHO! I'M JUST TESTIN' MY EVER-LOVIN' STRENGTH!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!
THE ONLY GUY-WHO GIVES ME ORDERS IS A GUY WHO CAN LICK ME!
AND THERE AIN'T NO SUCH ANIMAL!
LOOK, SIR... I'M NOT PRESUMING TO GIVE ORDERS TO ANYONE!
BUT, IT'S PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT A SUPERIOR INTELLECT BUILT THIS ELECTRONIC JUNGLE... AND EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH MIGHT BE A FATAL BOOBY TRAP!
USE YOUR HEAD, BEN! WINGFOOT IS DEAD RIGHT!
OUR FIRST JOB IS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!
AND I'M THE ONE TO DO THAT FOR YOU, SIR! THE BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS.. THE GREATEST SCOUTS OF ALL TIME.. FLOWS STRONG IN MY VEINS!
WE'LL STAY TOGETHER HERE TILL YOU RETURN, SON!
NO WONDER JOHNNY TOOK A SHINE TO THAT JOE! THE KID'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES!
12

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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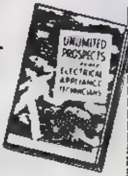

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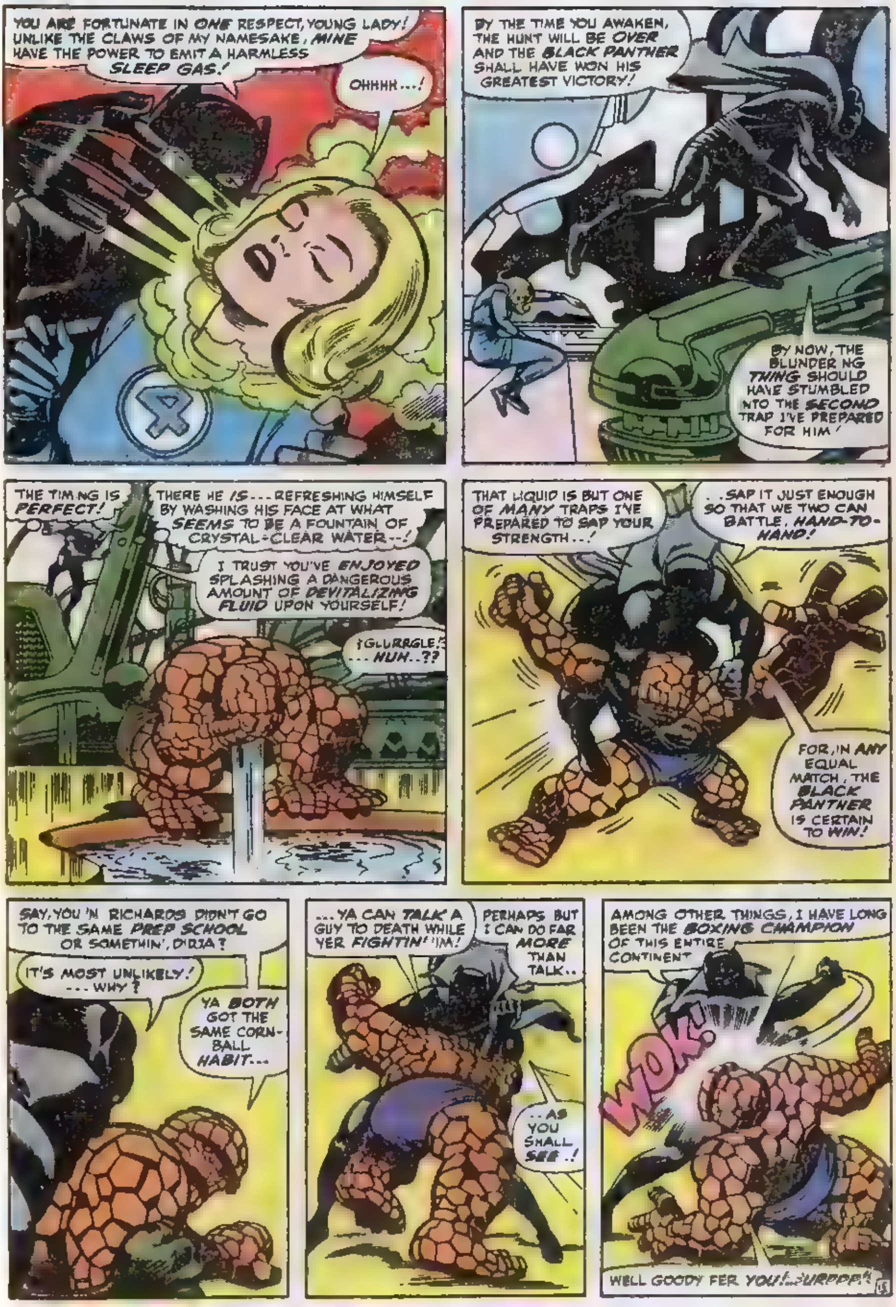
I'M SLOWING DOWN! THE POLARITY GETS WEAKER ... THE FURTHER I GO FROM THE OTHERS!
AS SOON AS I TOUCH THE GROUND, I'LL TURN INVISIBLE AS REED SAID!
A LAUDABLE EFFORT, MRS. RICHARDS... BUT YOU CANNOT HOPE TO EVADE THE BLACK PANTHER SO EASILY!
IT'S HIM! HE KNOWS I'M HERE!
I MUST BE PREPARED FOR ANY-THING!
IT IS NOT FOR NOTHING I AM CALLED THE BLACK PANTHER!
FOR, MY SENSES ARE SHARP AS A JUNGLE CAT'S!
I CAN'T TRUST INVISIBILITY ALONE!...MUST RUN!
THOUGH A PANTHER MIGHT NOT SEE YOU, DO YOU THINK HE'D FAIL TO HEAR YOUR SOFT FOOT-FALLS?
HE'S RIGHT! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO STAND STOCK STILL!
I OUTSMARTED HIM! BY STANDING NEAR THIS PULSATING GENERATOR, THE SOUND OF MY OWN FRANTIC BREATHING IS DROWNED OUT!
BUT...WHY IS HE STOPPING?
I APPLAUD YOUR CLEVERNESS, MRS. RICHARDS! BUT, YOU OVER-LOOKED ONE THING! EVEN WHEN A PANTHER CANNOT HEAR HIS VICTIM--HE CAN ALWAYS DETECT THE SCENT!
HE'S STARTING TO TURN! HE'S FOUND ME!
AH! YOU HAVE OBLIGINGLY TURNED VISIBLE! THAT MEANS YOU ARE ABOUT TO RESORT TO YOUR DEFENSIVE FORCE FIELD, WHICH CAN ONLY BE EMPLOYED WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR INVISIBILITY!
YOU SEE, I HAVE MADE AN EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF THE STRANGE POWERS OF YOUR FAMOUS TEAM!
HE WAS TOO FAST! HE LEAPED INSIDE MY FORCE FIELD BEFORE I COULD SEAL IT!
A STUDY WHICH HAS SERVED ME IN GOOD STEAD!
14



YOU ARE FORTUNATE IN ONE RESPECT, YOUNG LADY! UNLIKE THE CLAWS OF MY NAMESAKE, MINE HAVE THE POWER TO EMIT A HARMLESS SLEEP GAS!
OHHHH...!
BY THE TIME YOU AWAKEN, THE HUNT WILL BE OVER AND THE BLACK PANTHER SHALL HAVE WON HIS GREATEST VICTORY!
BY NOW, THE BLUNDERING THING SHOULD HAVE STUMBLED INTO THE SECOND TRAP I'VE PREPARED FOR HIM!
THE TIMING IS PERFECT!
THERE HE IS... REFRESHING HIMSELF BY WASHING HIS FACE AT WHAT SEEMS TO BE A FOUNTAIN OF CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATER--!
I TRUST YOU'VE ENJOYED SPLASHING A DANGEROUS AMOUNT OF DEVITALIZING FLUID UPON YOURSELF!
GLURRGLE! ...HUH..??
THAT LIQUID IS BUT ONE OF MANY TRAPS I'VE PREPARED TO SAP YOUR STRENGTH..!
..SAP IT JUST ENOUGH SO THAT WE TWO CAN BATTLE, HAND-TO-HAND!
FOR, IN ANY EQUAL MATCH, THE BLACK PANTHER IS CERTAIN TO WIN!
SAY, YOU 'N RICHARDS DIDN'T GO TO THE SAME PREP SCHOOL OR SOMETHIN', DIDJA?
IT'S MOST UNLIKELY! ...WHY?
YA BOTH GOT THE SAME CORN-BALL HABIT...
...YA CAN TALK A GUY TO DEATH WHILE YER FIGHTIN' 'IM!
PERHAPS BUT I CAN DO FAR MORE THAN TALK..
..AS YOU SHALL SEE..!
AMONG OTHER THINGS, I HAVE LONG BEEN THE BOXING CHAMPION OF THIS ENTIRE CONTINENT
WOK!
WELL GOODY FER YOU! ..URPPP!
15

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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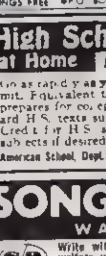

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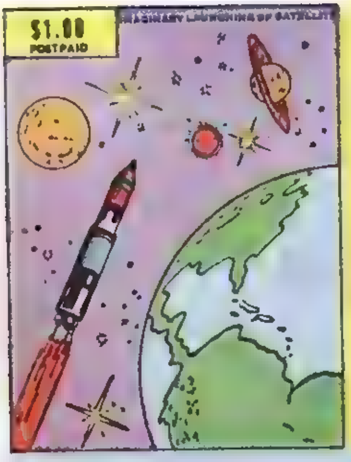
MEANWHILE WHAT OF WYATT WINGFOOT? (...WE THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!).
SO! THE EDGE OF THE REAL JUNGLE, AT LAST! BUT, WHAT'S THIS?
A HIDDEN OBSERVATION POST... THE WAKANDAS HAVE BEEN SECRETLY MONITORING THE F.F.!
OUR CHIEFTAIN MUST DEFEAT ONLY ONE MORE TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL OF TOTAL VICTORY!
THE BLACK PANTHER SHALL NOT FAIL!
BUT THEN, WITH THE STEALTHY SILENCE OF HIS PROUD, RED-SKINNED FOREBEARS, THE INDIAN YOUTH STRIKES!
IF I CAN CRIPPLE THE BLACK PANTHER'S COMMUNICATIONS, IT MAY HELP THE F.F.!
BAM!
LUCKY FOR ME THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING AN ATTACK. NOW IF THEY'LL JUST STAY OUT LONG ENOUGH
THERE! THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SPY ON ANYONE ELSE WITH THESE ELECTRONIC SCANNERS
AND NOW, I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE OTHERS... WHILE I STILL CAN!
KRAK!
I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM AGAIN AND LEAD THEM OUT OF THIS ARTIFICIAL JUNGLE INTO THE REAL ONE!
SO LONG AS THEY'RE SURROUNDED BY ALL OF THE BLACK PANTHER'S ELABORATE TRAPS, THE ODDS MUST BE AGAINST THEM!
BUT, MINUTES LATER, AS THE COURAGEOUS YOUTH REACHES HIS DESTINATION...
I'M TOO LATE! THEY'RE GONE!
WAIT...WHAT'S THIS? THE GROUND... IT FEELS WARM!
IS THERE SOME SORT OF DYNAMO BENEATH ME OR... CAN IT BE...?!!
THE INTENSITY OF THE HEAT KEEPS VARYING! THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE EXPLANATION
IT'S THE TORCH! HE'S TRAPPED BENEATH ME... AND HE'S TRYING TO SIGNAL... TO CATCH MY ATTENTION!
MATTER WHAT I MUSTN'T FAIL HIM!

IF YOU CAN KEEP TRACK OF WHERE WE LEAVE EVERYONE DURING THESE STACCATO SCENE CHANGES YOU'RE BETTER THAN WE ARE, FRANTIC ONE! — ANYWAY...
ONCE I HAVE BESTED YOU, RICHARDS, THE HUNT WILL BE ENDED!
MY WIFE!! WHERE IS SHE? IF YOU'VE HARMED HER..?
SHE IS SAFE ENOUGH .. FOR NOW! I DO NOT CONSIDER FEMALES TO BE FAIR GAME!
LEAP!
I CAN DIVINE YOUR PURPOSE.. BUT YOU WILL FIND THAT I AM NOT SO EASILY OUT-MANEUVERED!
SPRONK!
HE PLUNGED THE AREA INTO TOTAL DARKNESS! I CAN'T SEE!
REMEMBER... THE PANTHER IS ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY OF CATS!
AND, UNLIKE A MERE HUMAN, THE CAT IS NEVER SIGHTLESS IN THE DARK!
UHHHH..!
MR. FANTASTIC... LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR... HELPLESS BEFORE THE POWER OF THE BLACK PANTHER! MY HOUR OF TRIUMPH AT LAST!
BUT ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO SEE HIS TAUNTING FOE... THE VALIANT REED RICHARDS CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE ...TO FIGHT BACK...TO LASH OUT IN A DESPERATE, RAGING FURY...
YOU HAVEN'T WON YET, PANTHER! NOT WHILE I HAVE ONE BREATH OF LIFE LEFT...!
ARMS FOR
SECONDS

HERE I AM, RICHARDS! HERE I AM! IF YOU WANT ME, JUST REACH OUT--I'M WAITING FOR YOU!
HE'S DELIBERATELY GOADING ME--TRYING TO TRICK ME IN SOME WAY! BUT I MUST KEEP GROPING FOR HIM---I MUST GET H... SOMEHOW..!
I DON'T KNOW YOUR MOTIVE FOR ANY OF THIS--- BUT YOU'LL LEARN - AS SO MANY HAVE LEARNED BEFORE YOU---THAT NOBODY ATTACKS THE FANTASTIC FOUR--
---NOT WITH-OUT PAYING FOR THAT PRIVILEGE.. AND PAYING IN FULL!
CLICK!
HE SWITCHED THE LIGHTS BACK ON! I CAN SEE AGAIN!
I KNEW YOUR GROPING HANDS WOULD EVENTUALLY FIND THEIR WAY INTO MY SPECIALLY-PREPARED TITANIUM CUFFS!
TLAK!
TLAK!
AND SO, THE TABLEAU ENDS! THE HUNT IS OVER!
THE BLACK PANTHER HAS WON!
NOT YET YOU HAVEN'T, MASKED MAN!
WHO SAID THAT?!!
WHY NOT JUST TAKE A WILD GUESS?!!
THE HUMAN TORCH! YOU'RE FREE AGAIN! BUT---HOW--??
YOU MEAN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW?!
LEMME BURN THOSE NUTTY CUFFS OFF YOU, BROTHER-IN-LAW!
NOW THAT MY SWINGIN' STRENGTH'S BACK, I JUST WANT ONE GOOD POKE AT 'IM!
I'LL KEEP HIM BUSY WITH A BOBBING FORCE FIELD, DARLING!
YOU'VE ALL BEEN LIBERATED FROM MY TRAPS! IT-IT CANNOT BE---!
WE SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU, PANTHER ---THE F.F. DOESN'T MAKE A HABIT OF LOSING!
19

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...



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BULLETIN! It's hail and farewell to sturdy STEVE DITKO! SPIDER-MAN #38 and STRANGE TALES #146 (both now on sale) will mark his final appearances in any Marvel mags! (Except for the numerous reprints you'll find in our king-size issues.) Steve recently told us he was leaving, for personal reasons. After all these years, we're sorry to see him go, and we wish the talented guy success with his future endeavors. As for his replacement, all we can say is—since someone else has to draw Spidey, thank Asgard that jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA has returned to the fold! Not only has he captured the spirit, the excitement, and the indefinable uniqueness that have made the ol' web-spinner one of literature's most sensational successes, but Johnny has actually managed to add a new dimension—the attribute of sheer artistic glamor which, we predict, will lift Spidey to still greater heights of Marvel magnificence! (And, needless to say, smilin' STAN will continue to turn out the type of stories which no one has yet been able to hold a candle to!) As for Dr. Strange, at the time of this writing, we still haven't chosen a new artist, but we've had a whole kaboodle of volunteers from among our loyal bullpeners, so just wait'n see, pussycat!

BULLETIN! We never realized the whole whacky, wonderful world was so hungry for our rapturous reprints! MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS are being gobbled up as fast as we can turn them out—and the same goes for its new sister mag (or, brother mag, if you prefer), MARVEL TALES! But, here's the stop-the-presses part of our bulletin—we're making FANTASY MASTERPIECES a king-size mag too—and, besides featuring our greatest and nuttiest monster tales, it will star—hold your breath, now—the earliest tales of CAPTAIN AMERICA—from mighty Marvel's golden era! The first one's on sale now—or, it was! Once this notice appears in print, those nearly-priceless copies will last about as long as a Yancy Streeter at the Thing's birthday party! And we kid thee not!

BULLETIN! Is our collective face red! We printed an announcement recently about the fact that the famous college mag, the PELICAN, was doing a satire on us! But, we referred to it as the U.C.L.A. PELICAN, when anybody who is anybody (except US) would know that we SHOULD have said the University of California at Berkeley PELICAN! (Or, is it the other way around? Hoo boy!) Anyway, forgive us, Berkeleyites, and many thanks for the kind things you had to say—things such as: "Seekers of wisdom and truth will accept nothing less than MARVEL COMICS—Marvel mags sell faster than Unguentine in a leper colony. They are viciously sought out, purchased, stolen, and hoarded by a rapidly-growing number of students—who have found Marvel to be the first real revolution in literature!—Sartre, Camus, Marx, and Dostoevsky [are] being crowded off intellectual bookshelves to make way for SPIDER-MAN and the HULK—" Etc, etc, etc. We're too modest (as everyone knows) to print any more! But, we promise you this, lads—we'll be sure to get the name of your ubiquitous University correct next time—as soon as someone tells us what it really is!

BULLETIN! Here's one of our most sensational items yet! By the time your sparkling little eyes can devour these wondrous words, Lancer Books, one of America's top paperback book publishers, will be featuring two of our Marvel-ous characters—in paperback book form! Whatever you do, don't miss 'em! They're on sale now! One book features the FANTASTIC FOUR: and the [illegible] DER-MAN! How about THAT!

BULLETIN! There are so many exciting things perking at Marvel, we don't know what to tell you first! Here are a few choice items—to wit—The fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR introduces a brand new character in ish #52 called the Black Panther! We expect the largest mail reaction of the year after you've met him!—DAREDEVIL #s 16 and 17 have been guest-starring Spidey—so don't miss your chance to get a sneak preview of how Ring-a-ding Romita can handle ol' Web-Head!—Everyone's talking about the reappearance of Giant-Man in the AVENGERS . . . and of his name (Goliath) and his new costume (like Wow!)—Stan and Jack are going batty trying to keep track of the Greek gods whom they've introduced in the new THOR series, along with the Norse gods! For the most "celestial" saga around, don't dare miss it!—Have you seen Bill Everett's version of the Hulk yet? It's created a heap of talk in fandom, and you'll be reading the various comments in our letters pages starting next month. Big Bill is one of our old-time, all time greats, and the master [illegible] lost his titanic touch!

BULLETIN! Have you seen those little "mini-books" on sale in vending machines thruout the country? They're about the size of a postage stamp, and more fun than Dr. Doom on a pogo stick! Anyway, early in April you'll be seeing over TEN MILLION new ones—called MARVEL MINI-BOOKS—featuring Spidey, Thor, Captain America, the Hulk, Sgt. Fury, and Millie the Model! Watch for them—they're millions more pieces of proof that mighty Marvel is taking over the world—and you're in on the coup right along with us!

BULLETIN! We haven't had much time to mention it lately, but the ol' MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY has so many thousands of members now that we're almost running out of numbers for the flood of new applications that keep pouring in! Remember, every Merry Marcher receives a special surprise bulletin in the mail a couple of times yearly, plus all sorts of other goodies too numerous (and too ridiculous) to mention here! And, before we forget, a mighty Marvel salute to amazin' ART ROBERTS, the sensational, swingin' Dee Jay of Chicago's wild and wondrous radio station WLS, for the great job he's been doing in recruiting Merry Marchers for us among his millions of listeners! (And, a personal aside to Art from Stan: Peter Fugitive is the coolest, man!)

THE WRAP-UP! We received a letter which we feel is of such general appeal to Marvelites everywhere, that we're printing a portion of it in this space rather than on a letters page. Here goes:

Dear Stan,

Before you let yourself become entangled in a bitter and senseless tirade against your major competitor I ask you to stop and consider all aspects of your competition. True, the both of you are marketing the same product—but your treatment of the stories and problems you choose to bring up is startlingly different—and you need not resort to needling and name-calling. To see you, who at times publish such superior material, accuse the other of using your old material is certainly a comedown from when you refused to acknowledge them as competition! It is we, the readers, who suffer from your present course of unpleasant propaganda. I remain one of your most loyal fans. Best wishes,

Mike Murano, 36 Lynn St.,
Peabody, Mass. 01960

Actually, we've never tried to single out any one competitor for criticism. By BRAND ECHH, we really mean *all* of them! But, that's besides the point. What we [illegible]t to know is—do most of you agree with Mike? If so, we won't mention Brand Echh again. Personally, we get a kick out of the mutual letter-col needling that goes on—but, as always, our job is to please YOU! So, clue us in, frantic ones—and we'll announce your decision as soon as all the mail is in. Till next month then, FACE FRONT—you never know when Irving Forbush may drop in! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #38: Once again Spidey battles a brand-new, nuttier-than-ever super villain!

AVENGERS #29: Wow! Look who's back! Power Man! The Black Widow! And the Swordsman!

X-MEN #21: The secret of Lucifer, revealed at last; as the X-Men face: Dominus!

DAREDEVIL #17: The wrap-up of the season's greatest fight—D.D. vs. Spidey! It's a blast!

THOR #129: Hercules! Pluto! Zeus! Odin! Thor! The Netherworld! How can we do it all for 12¢?

STRANGE TALES #146: Fury tackles the mystery of "Them"! Dr. Strange meets Eternity again!

SUSPENSE #79: Iron Man faces disaster! Captain America takes the Red Skull! Hoo boy!

ASTONISH #81: Sub-Mariner goes mad! As for the Hulk, he's fighting everyone in [illegible]

SGT. FURY #31: Captain Sawyer gets into action at last! It's a bombshell!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #3: Now giant-sized! Featuring Captain America from Marvel's Golden Age

MARVEL TALES #3: How's this for a parlay—Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

COLLECTOR'S ITEM CLASSICS #3: Merely the greatest—Fantastic Four! The Hulk! Iron Man! Dr. Strange! And—The Watcher!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Arthur [illegible], Brooklyn, N. Y. · [illegible] Berger, Ontario, Canada · Claude McGinnis, [illegible] Tenn · [illegible] Watson, [illegible] · James [illegible] · [illegible] · Robert Sinkevich, Staten [illegible], N. Y. · Jack [illegible] · Andy Bandy · [illegible] · Gary [illegible] · Noel Boaz, [illegible] · James [illegible] · [illegible] · Bud Kliment, Philadelphia, Pa · [illegible] · Mark [illegible], New York, N. Y. · David Londeagles, [illegible] Wash · [illegible] · [illegible], San Antonio, Tex · David Banes, Williamsport, Pa · [illegible] · Joseph [illegible], [illegible] Cal

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Make out check or money order for $1.00 to: M.M.M.S. MARVEL COMICS GROUP 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Hi Gang! Let's face it, I'm a Marvel Mad man too! Here's my hard earned buck! Rush all your nutty gizmos to . . .

NAME ____________

ADDRESS ____________

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ZIP ____________ AGE ____

School, College or Occupation:

Fantastic Four (4) Fan Page

Send letters to LEE and KIRBY THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

The Marvel Comic Co. has exceeded all past, present, and future comic organizations. I believe you have the greatest staff in the comic world today. In my opinion, THE FANTASTIC FOUR is your best mag, and lives up to its name as the world's greatest magazine. I think it is disgraceful, though, about your subscription prices. $1.75—! Do you think that money grows on trees or something? You just take 10, the normal number of comics, times that tidy sum, and what do you get? I don't know what *you* get, but *I* get $17.50! I demand it be changed before we Marvel readers do something drastic. Next, the Inhumans. How could you do such a thing? It is horrible, what you idiots have done to the Inhumans. What is the meaning of the separation between Johnny and Crystal? Also, it is ridiculous that you never told us how Black Bolt lost his voice! I am asking you to please answer this letter seriously, and not with a joke, as you usually do.

Phillip Pearson, Box 95
Kendrick, Idaho

Don't worry, Phil — after the devastating things you said about us, who can joke? Unfortunately, our subscription department says they can't alter their prices — for reasons which we don't understand any more than *you* do! But, we'd really prefer you to buy our mags on the newsstands anyway—it gets you out in the fresh air more often that way, and we wanna keep you Marvelites as healthy as possible! As for Johnny and Chris—don't worry—they won't be separated forever! And you know we'll tell you how Black Bolt lost his voice sooner or later—in fact, we're kicking around a few ideas on that very subject right now. That's it, tiger!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Just finished reading the latest F.F. and have confirmed a belief which I have long held to be true—that the adventure comic business would come to a dead halt, dry up and blow away were it not for one insignificant adjunct, which is as necessary to comicdom as word balloons. Give up?,!: That's it! That's the sine qua non without which the public might as well go back to reading novels (horrible thought!). Do you realize that there are more exclamation marks in the above issue (473) than there are in *Madam Bovary, the Bible*, and *War and Peace* put together? Hats off to the letterers of comicdom. Where would they all be without the skill and patience to make dots below lines? Even the commonly accepted version of how God started to make the universe (Fiat Lux) was managed without exclamations. Is it necessary, then, to append one (at least) after every "crummp," "twanng," or "bloomp"?

Garlad Storrow, Marlboro College
Marlboro, Vt.

Wow! Yep! It sure is! Zowie!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I've been meaning to write to you since 1963, but always put it off. But now, it's either write or go crazy. Your two newest creations are great. COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS and FANTASY MASTERPIECES are both very good ideas. I have about 30 of your fantasy mags. How about doing the complete series of Dr Doom in FANTASY MASTERPIECES? And bring back the Tomorrow Man. After reading F.F., I realize that you guys are nuts! Only Marvel would have a guy named Silver Surfer! But, I think he's great. In closing, I have news for you. In the "Didja Know" department, you stated that the *first* Doc Strange appeared in IRON MAN, which is right. What you didn't know is that he appeared in ish #41. I think I should get a no-prize for that

Don Jarvis, 45 Lawn Ave.
Warwick, R. I.

Okay, Donnie—one no-prize comin' up—we'll deliver it as soon as our Fantasti-car gets its yearly tune-up. (The only thing is, since we don't remember the exact ish—and haven't any back number copies to check—we have to take your word for it that you're right! But, that's okay! Who ever heard of a Marvel madman being wrong?)

Dear Stan and Jack,

Between Galactus, the Watcher, Odin, and Eternity, you have lost me completely. There are now far too many "all-powerful" characters in your comic books. These characters, though they make for exciting stories, also make your tales unbelievable. This is fine if a reader only buys one or two of your titles, but, as a fan who buys almost every comic you produce (excluding MILLIE THE MODEL and RAWHIDE KID), I can tell you that the existence of too many omnipotent characters in your stories detracts from the realism that helps make your mags as great as they are, and also ruins your less powerful villains. After all, if the F.F. manages to defeat Galactus, how could they ever have trouble defeating Dr. Doom? So, after the threat of Galactus is over, let's get back to some good ol' one-issue fights with the old sparring partners. No more of these all-powerful cats, dig?

Larry Bush, 134-25 166th Place
Jamaica, N. Y.

You've brought up an interesting point, Larry — one which we'd like a few more opinions on—and, knowing our frantic ones, we shouldn't have too long to wait! Soon as we tally the mail, we'll letcha know how many other meditating Marvelites see eyeball to eyeball with you. In the meantime, our own opinion is that nobody can embellish those nutty universe-shattering menaces like King Kirby can; and we just haven't the heart to stifle that awesome artistic imagination of his! Besides, we flip over that kind of yarn! But, que sera, sera!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Although some fans seem to dislike your continued stories, I am grateful to you for printing them in the first place. These stories allow you time for plot and character development, which heightens the reader's interest in the story. Before I close, I must comment on F.F. #48, which concludes the adventure with the Inhumans. It was a great story, but I wasn't satisfied with the way Johnny Storm and Crystal were treated. Stan, whatever you do, those two must be reunited. Long live the M.M.M.S.

J. W. Goodwin, Jr. 2426 Belvedere
Wilmington, N. C.

Amen, J. W.! And, as we told Phil Pearson elsewhere on this page, if you think we've forgotten about cuddly

Chris—don't believe it! We don't yet know where, when, or even how — but in the name of Ben's Aunt Petunia, we pledge that Johnny and Crystal will meet again! Unfortunately, we don't yet know whether it will be a happy or tragic meeting (not that we'd give it away if we *did* know!), but bear with us, and we'll find out together!

Dear Stan and Jack,
Three of us here at Haverford College have recently been overwhelmed by the astounding brilliance of the Hulk and his cohorts. As for the Fantastic Four, no words can express our awesome admiration at their amazing adventures. The three of us do a weekly rock'n'roll show on the campus radio station, WHRC. In a glorious attempt to add more prestige to our weekly performance and to appeal to the more cultured denizens of the college community, we have usurped the titles of our three favorite Marvel characters—the Hulk, the Human Torch, and Doctor Doom. Local consensus of opinion indicates that our show is definitely CLOBBERIN' TIME. We praise and applaud the persistently powerful personality portraits which you potently promulgate in your perennially pandemonious paper. We pose a puzzler, however—what accounts for the gratuitous, garish, gross greenness of the Hulk? 'Nuff said! FLAME ON!

Dave "Torch" Wieck, John "Hulk" Stuart,
Vernon "Doom" Haskell
Haverford College, Haverford, Penna.

So, you wanna know why our incredible, iconoclastic, inveterate rampager is green, eh? The answer happens to be simplicity itself, lads—think how silly he'd look if his skin was *purple!*

Dear Stan and Jack,
Just read FANTASTIC FOUR #49—excellent, as usual. The F.F. have come a long way. They've left the world of comics, and entered the world of pure fantasy—and I must say I love it! Ever since the Frightful Four incident started, and then the Inhumans (who *must* have their own mag), on down to Galactus . . . The F.F. have pioneered the world of science fiction. Like all your unique creations, they have a technique all their own, and it is unexcelled in the field of comic books—or in any form of literature. You may or may not realize it, but (in my unabashed opinion), you have created a team of super-heroes so different that they are the world's greatest science fiction creations, and I commend you, Stan, and you, Jack, for creating them.

Eugene Bearringer, 508 Eleanor
Toledo, Ohio

We're sorry that your natural reticence has inhibited you somewhat so that you weren't able to be as effusive in your praise as you might otherwise have been, Gene —but we get the message anyway, pal—thanks a heap!

Dear Stan and Jack,
I was just sitting here at my desk, and I thought I'd take a break from reading my F.F. mag by writing you a letter. Mainly, I want to say that I go ape over your use of photographs. Two other things—for the first time, in #48, one of your heroes needed a shave, and the "Silver Surfer" is a corny name. In some of your comics, I've seen you use full-page pictures. I like these very much, but I was wondering if you could make pictures the full length of the mag? Get what I mean? This way, the action pictures would be twice as good. Say, I dig your FANTASY MASTERPIECES magazine! That fab photo of ol' Stan gave me an idea. Since this magazine shows the early work of your artists, how about having a photo of one of these guys in every ish, telling about the stories?

Doug Nikkel, 43 Rainbow Dr.
Humboldt, Iowa

Good idea, Doug. But, we can't do it every ish, or we'd run out of photos before you can say Yancy Street! However, we'll do it once in a while, shooting for the element of *surprise*, as usual! Y'know, it's a funny thing — about a half dozen liltin' letters so far have also referred to the Silver Surfer as a corny name. Yet, we can still remember how we patted each other on the back when we made it up—we thought it was an inspiration! It just goes to prove—the more you know, the more you realize how little you know! (But, darn it, we still think it's a groovy name!)

Dear Stan and Jack,
Congratulations on a job well-done, referring to your complete line of Marvel Comics. My interest in comics, which dates back to 1940, lagged terribly till you fellows went to work in earnest: how your competitors must be tossing and turning at night, wondering what on earth happened. I wonder if they realize that a good share of their plight is as much their *own* fault as the "fault" of the fabulous Marvel staff! They were a lazy bunch, weren't they? They actually didn't give a fig for the readers; but look at them now!— letters pages , fancy blurbs, guest stars, the whole works. A great many heads must have rolled! Now, before I become too long-winded, I'd like to submit *my* suggestion list; something, undoubtedly, which you boys get mighty bored at receiving in the old mail bag . . . First, drop the westerns; you've far too much talent to waste on these. And second, you boys have the only limitless, unmatched—no pun intended—character in the field of comics with the Human Torch. Your competitors would simply go out of their minds trying to duplicate him. In fact, he can not be duplicated, much less imitated. I can see it now—each company desperately trying to outdo a magazine titled simply, THE HUMAN TORCH. They'd turn up with Fireball; the Flaming Being; Torchman; and heaven only knows what else. No kidding, the Human Torch, in a magazine of his own, would take the nation by storm, leaving the other companies limp. Third, you'd dazzle your readers, and gain a few thousand in the bargain, if you'd have a war between Sub-Mariner and the Human Torch. Conflict between these two is too much of a "natural" to be discarded, don't you agree? Lastly, it constantly amazes me to watch Captain America sail along with no change in uniform—I suspicion that you have a sentimental attachment to Cap. You fellows deserve many compliments, and, I observe on your letters pages, you're getting quite a few. Keep up the MARVELous work.

Donald J. Brown, 1407 Alexander
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Thanks, Don. You've swelled our heads, inflated our egos, and given us eyestrain! So, the least we can do is tell you that we think THE HUMAN TORCH would be a great mag — and, if we ever get the time — who knows? But, till then—we *do* have a dozen or so other titles that we're still pushin'—and it won't make us the least bit angry if you buy *them* by the carload! See ya!

NEXT ISH: Mighty Marvel does it again! You'll thrill to the origin of the Black Panther—and meet the astounding Mr. Klaw ! You'll cheer the spectacle and surprises from Stan and Jack at their imaginative best! And you'll be able to smile with satisfaction, in years to come, when they ask if you were a part of the magnificent, magical Marvel Age of Comics! So, don't miss the eerie excitement that awaits you in F.F. #53 — it's merely the greatest! 'Nuff said! .

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Sincerely Yours, Ben Rebhuhn
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Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist—with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

FOUNDING FACULTY OF FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS

NORMAN ROCKWELL	FRED LUDEKENS
JON WHITCOMB	BEN STAHL
AL PARKER	ROBERT FAWCETT
STEVAN DOHANOS	AUSTIN BRIGGS
GEORGE GIUSTI	HAROLD VON SCHMIDT
PETER HELCK	ALBERT DORNE

Famous Artists Schools
Studio 5039, Westport, Conn.

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

Mr.
Mrs. ________________ *Age*______
Miss ◄ *Circle one and please print*

*Street*________________________

*City*__________________________

*State*______________ *Zip*______ *(if known)*